

APPENDIX 9

U. S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20472



FEMA

Louisville Metro Pilot Project Overview **Implementing the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000)** **Applying HAZUS-MH to Community Mitigation Planning**

HAZUS-MH Background

The mission of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to reduce loss of life and property, and protect our nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards through a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program that includes mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. In 1997, FEMA, in cooperation with the National Institute of Building Sciences, developed a standardized model for estimating losses caused by earthquakes, known as Hazards U.S. (HAZUS). HAZUS was developed in response to the need for more effective national-, state-, and community-level planning and risk assessment through an enhanced ability to identify areas that face the highest exposure and potential for loss.

As of Fall 2003, HAZUS has been expanded into a multi-hazard (MH) methodology with new modules for estimating potential losses from wind (hurricanes, tornadoes, and tropical cyclones) and flood (riverine and coastal) hazards. FEMA has allocated considerable resources to develop the HAZUS-MH software to quantitatively assess risk, estimate losses from natural hazards, and produce studies that will assist state, local governments, communities, and private sector representatives to implement programs in emergency response, recovery, and mitigation, including multi-hazard mitigation plans.

HAZUS-MH / DMA 2000 Pilot Projects

The purpose of these projects is to assist FEMA with the development and dissemination of tools, processes, and methodologies through implementing pilot projects with select communities. During the process, the project participants will provide significant input. The focus will be on working with the community to apply HAZUS-MH to complete the risk assessment component of the mitigation planning effort.

Louisville Metro's Pilot Project

Louisville Metro is one of six pilot areas selected from applicants across the nation. First Round pilot project areas, include Marion and Hamilton Counties, IN, Austin, TX, Portland, OR, and Wyoming. Round Two of the pilot project will include: Annapolis, MD, New York City, NY, Kansas City, KS, and Scottsdale, AZ.

Louisville Metro pilot project staff includes representatives of FEMA Headquarters and Region 4, the Kentucky Emergency Management Agency, the Louisville Metro Emergency Management Agency, the Louisville Jefferson County Information Consortium Information (LOJIC), FEMA project consultants (Tetra Tech and PBS&J), and local community consultants. In addition, other local agencies, organizations, companies, and citizens are supporting the effort.

Louisville Metro's pilot project effort includes the following by the Pilot Project staff:

- ✓ **Initial Data Collection.** Achieves the following: (1) identifies risk exposures and prioritizes hazards for conducting the risk assessment; (2) Identifies data gaps and methodology for collecting unresolved data. The pilot project focuses on two local priority hazards of concern: earthquake and flood.
- ✓ **Data Assimilation, Manipulation, and Analysis.** FEMA consultants will manipulate data into HAZUS-MH-compatible formats, and conduct the risk assessments. This includes: (1) presentation of risk assessment results to the local Planning Team and Advisory Committee (2) an in-depth overview of data use, assumptions, and HAZUS-MH results; (3) discussion of the risk analysis results as they relate to overall mitigation planning efforts. The pilot product will include a risk assessment addressing selected local hazards of concern, focusing on hazards addressed by HAZUS-MH (wind,

flood, earthquake). Louisville Metro will use the information as one input to the All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan to meet the requirements of DMA 2000.